

## **Meeting Inter-State Council at 6.30 PM – Dated 9/12/2006 New Delhi**

### **Atrocities on Scheduled Castes**

#### **Number and status**

1. Punjab has the highest population of SCs in the country. SC population 70.78 lac out of 2.43 crores constituting 28.85%.
2. Literacy status of SCs better than All India Level. 56.22% SCs are literate as against the total literacy rate of 70% in Punjab and All India SC Literacy rate of 54.69%.
3. The economic and social status of SCs is quite good in the State. The teaching of Gurus and Faqirs have spread the message of equality and brotherhood in the State. The practice of untouchability as known in some parts of the country, is absent in the State.

#### **The Acts**

4. The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 was enacted to check the practice of untouchability. Offences relating to untouchability have been defined.
5. The SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 defines the various kinds of atrocities committed against SC/ST people and provides punishments for them. Section 3 (1) and 3(2) are relevant in this regard.

6. The SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995 have also been issued. Rule 12(4) provides compensation to the victims of atrocities from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 2.00 lakh depending upon the nature of atrocities.

### **Status of implementation of the Act and Rules in Punjab**

7. Special courts have been designated in all the districts. These are headed by District Judge or the Seniormost Additional District Judge. All the public prosecutors have been designated as Special Prosecutor.
8. State and District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up. The District Committees meet after every three months.
9. The Acts have been brought to the notice of people through Seminars, Translations of these Acts into Punjabi and Erection of Boards in the Police Stations and the office of Welfare Department.
10. A sum of Rs. 115.00 lakh was released during the year 2005-06 to the districts to set up all claims of compensation under the 1995 rules in respect of cases from 1989-2005. A sum of Rs. 40.00 lakhs has been sanctioned to the districts for any claims thereafter. There were 434 claims for the period 1989-2005.
11. The State Government has established a Statutory Commission for Scheduled Castes. The Commission provides an effective window for redressal of grievances of Scheduled Castes and it is fully functional.

12. The State Government has enacted a legislation providing reservation for Scheduled Castes in Government and public sector jobs. 25% jobs are reserved for Scheduled Castes in cases of direct recruitment whereas 14% jobs are reserved for Scheduled Castes in promotion cases. 50% of the jobs reserved for Scheduled Castes are earmarked for Balmikis and Mazbhis.

**Year-wise data on incidence of Atrocities**

13. The details of offences committed under the Act during the last five year from 2001 to 30/9/2006 is enclosed herewith. The total number of cases was as follows :

2001 – 91

2002 – 98

2003 – 85

2004 – 94

2005 – 103

2006 – 101

14. The figures regarding disposal of cases by the Courts is also enclosed herewith. During the last five years, 308 cases were brought before the Courts and 75 cases were disposed off and there was conviction in 6 cases.

## **Actions for implementation under consideration**

15. There is a proposal being considered by the Welfare Department for providing pension to widow/dependants of the deceased SC or employment to one member of the family as envisaged under the 1995 Rules.